

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/814,537

Applicant(s)

EDIE ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Hoon Song

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response filed on 5/11/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-27 are allowed over prior art.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1-9 and 19-21, the prior art fails to teach an imaging system having one or more distributed x-ray sources arranged relative to a volume of interest and one or more x-ray detectors, wherein at least one of the one or more x-ray sources or the one or more x-ray detectors are displaceable transversely and one or more x-ray detectors are stationary to allow an unimpeded path for the x-ray beam as claimed in independent claims 1 and 19.

Regarding claims 14-18, the prior art fails to teach an imaging system having a plurality of x-ray sources arranged relative to a volume of interest and a plurality of x-ray detectors, wherein at least one of an x-ray source from the plurality of x-ray sources or a x-ray detector from the plurality of detectors are configured to be displaced transversely and the remaining x-ray detectors from the plurality of detectors are stationary to allow an unimpeded path for the x-ray beam as claimed in independent claims 14.

Regarding claims 10-13, 22 and 24, the prior art fails to teach an imaging system having one or more distributed x-ray sources surrounding an imaging volume, and one or more x-ray detectors (or sections) configured to be stationary and one or more x-ray detectors (or sections) configured to move transversely or nutate for either opening of at least one individual radiation beam aperture or covering at least a portion of the aperture as claimed in independent claims 10-13, 22 and 24.

Regarding claim 23, the prior art fails to teach an imaging system having one or more distributed x-ray sources surrounding a desired portion of an imaging volume and one or more x-ray detectors wherein, at least one of the x-ray source or the x-ray detector is displaceable transversely and the one or more x-ray detectors are stationary to allow illumination of the desired portion of the imaging volume as claimed in independent claim 23.

Regarding claims 25-27, the prior art fails to teach a method of scanning a volume by triggering a distributed x-ray sources, displacing transversely one or more x-ray detectors to allow unimpeded path for the radiation beam to illuminate an imaging volume and displacing one or more x-ray detectors opposite to the distributed x-ray source to intercept a transmitted radiation beam, wherein the one or more x-ray detectors comprises stationary detectors and movable detectors as claimed in independent claim 25.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoon Song whose telephone number is (571) 272-2494. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 AM - 7 PM, Monday - Friday.

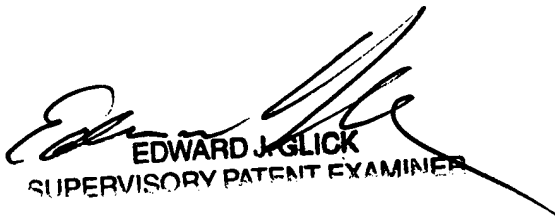
Art Unit: 2882

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Glick can be reached on (571) 272 - 2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HKS

7/23/06
HKS


EDWARD J. GLICK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER